

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
October 8, 2014

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Shawn Santasiere, Bill Lennon, Paul Shapiro, Kristin Schwab, Susanna Everett, Susanna Bachman (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Stoddard.

The September 10, 2014 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Shapiro/Santasiere.

Stoddard reported on bike/pedestrian access. CRCOG reviewed the water line proposal and Connecticut DOT is now evaluating CRCOG's request to reduce Route 195's lane width of 11 feet, which will allow more shoulder for cyclists. The shoulder, however, would not be designated as a bike lane. Santasiere offered to serve as the sustainability representative for the Connecticut Water Advisory committee. Initiated through CRCOG, a September bike pedestrian count was taken. With the help of Schwab's students and Lon Hultgren the following information was gathered: 1) Four Corners - no activity, 2) North Eagleville and North Hillside Roads - 77 bikes, 266 pedestrians, 3) Route 195 & Bolton Road - 62 bikers, 492 pedestrians, 4) Routes 195 & 275 - 63 bikers, 58 pedestrians. The committee might want to do more of these counts. Stoddard explained that the CRCOG Corridor Study will cover Route 195 from I-84 to Route 6 and Route 44 from I-384 to Route 195. Santasiere has been attending the newly formed bike task force meetings. The group has identified 16 spots where bike sharrows could be helpful within Storrs downtown and locations for additional bike racks on the square. They are in the process of naming the group and setting goals. They hope to create a master bike plan, advocate for a complete streets policy, raise bike awareness and increase road labeling. Schwab's landscape design students have worked on master bike plans, some of which could be helpful. She will encourage her students to attend the bike task force meetings.

The committee discussed how the Town of Mansfield might work with the energy conservation company, Next Step Living. Instead of officially partnering with the company, it was decided that the Town could offer to host a presentation on ductless mini split heating systems. The Town could also provide them with information on targeted areas for energy conservation. Walton will follow up with Next Step Living.

Walton reported that Titan Energy, an energy consultant that the Town is working with, has agreed to draft a municipal energy conservation action plan. The committee asked that after Titan Energy analyzes the energy data that has been collected, they bring it to a sustainability committee meeting so that the committee can have an active role in developing an action plan. Walton will invite Titan Energy to a future meeting.

Everett reported that she presented the idea of a district-wide climate change focused science fair at a Board of Education meeting. This idea will be brought back to each of the schools for consideration.

The committee discussed sustainable land care for municipal properties. Schwab suggested having a charrette that includes her plant design students, committee members and the municipal staff that manages the grounds. Walton will work with Schwab to set up after January, when the class begins.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton